



Focus

Management Requirements for Special Waste

Background

Ecology revised the management requirements for special waste in 1995. If safely managed, special waste can now be conditionally excluded under section -073 of the *Dangerous Waste Regulations*, Chapter 173-303 WAC.

Definition of Special Waste

Special waste includes solid, "state only" dangerous waste that also meets the definition of 1) Category D toxic waste, 2) solid corrosive waste, or 3) low-level chlorinated waste that falls under the criteria for persistent halogens. The special waste category also includes waste generated from the salvaging, re-building, or discarding of transformers, capacitors, or bushings as listed in WAC 173-303-9904.

Some of the most common special wastes generated in Washington are aluminum cryolite waste from aluminum smelters, sand blast grit containing copper, nickel, or benzene, coal tar pitch, and sludges with low levels of metals and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Options for Managing Special Waste

Generators can manage special waste as fully regulated dangerous waste or they can choose to follow the conditional exclusion requirements of WAC 173-303-073. To take advantage of this conditional exclusion, generators must dispose of their waste in hazardous waste or municipal solid waste landfills as specified in section -073, recycle the waste on- or off-site, or treat the waste in a way that is consistent with Ecology's treatment by generator guidance. Special waste is not eligible for the conditional exclusion if it is treated in a manner that would require a dangerous waste permit, such as incineration or thermal treatment.

Management Requirements for Special Waste

General requirements for the management of Special Waste in WAC 173-303-073(2)

As with excluded dangerous waste in WAC 173-303-071, special waste is not exempt from the requirements of WAC 173-303-050, 173-303-145, and 173-303-960. These sections address cleanup authorities, spills and discharges, and the special powers and authorities of Ecology. In addition, generators of special waste must still comply with the pollution prevention planning and fee requirements of Chapter 173-307 WAC and Chapter 173-305 WAC, the notifica-

tion and annual reporting requirements of WAC 173-303-060, and the burning for energy recovery requirements of WAC 173-303-510.
Ecology strongly encourages recycling over disposal.

Specific Conditions of the Special Waste Exclusion

In addition to the preceding general requirements, WAC 173-303-073 contains specific management requirements for special waste. These requirements are:

- ❖ Generators must store special waste in a way that safeguards against releases to the environment. Special waste can be stored on-site for up to 180 days. (WAC 173-303-073(2)(a))
- ❖ Employees who could come into contact with special waste must be informed of the potential hazard. (WAC 173-303-073(2)(d))
- ❖ Solid waste transfer stations can manage special waste **only** if the station operator arranges to segregate the waste to ensure that workers and the public are not unnecessarily exposed. (WAC 173-303-073(2)(d))
- ❖ Generators of special waste and receiving facilities must both maintain records of the excluded waste transaction for five years. An invoice from the receiving facility can act as an adequate record for the generator. (WAC 173-303-073(2)(f))
- ❖ Facilities receiving special waste for disposal must meet the requirements of Chapter 173-351 WAC and have an engineered liner. If disposed out-of-state, the receiving facilities must meet the requirements of 40 CFR Part 258 or Part 270. (WAC 173-303-073(2)(g))
- ❖ Generators can call their Ecology regional office to obtain a list of landfills in the state that have expressed interest in accepting special waste.

For More Information

Ecology is an equal opportunity agency. If you have special accommodation needs or require this document in an alternate format, please contact the Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program at (360) 407-6700 (voice) or (360) 407-6006 (TDD).

For more information on the special waste conditional exclusion, call your nearest Ecology Regional Office.

Northwest Regional Office - Bellevue	(206)649-7000
Southwest Regional Office - Lacey	(360)407-6300
Central Regional Office - Yakima	(509)575-2490
Eastern Regional Office - Spokane	(509)456-2926